(iv) A greater diversification of activities is being taken by with better planning, improved linkages and identified marketing outlets for finished products.

(v) Concurrent evaluation of the programme is being done on a random and rotating sample basis for 720 old beneficiaries and 720 new beneficiaries every month since October, 1985 so as to identify shortcomings in the implementation of the programme.

National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)/Rural Landless Employment Programme (RLEGP)

(i) As against Sixth Plan Criteria of allocating 25 per cent funds on incidence of poverty and 75 per cent on population of agricultural labourers and marginal farmers, the allocations under both the programmes are being made from 1985-86, 50 per cent on incidence of poverty and 50 per cent on the population of marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and marginal workers (category of marginal workers included during 1986-87).

(ii) A greater emphasis has now been laid on creation of economically productive assets.

(iii) Concurrent evaluation of NREP has been started so as to identify shortcoming in the implementation of the programme.

(iv) Detailed maintenance plans are being prepared for undertaking maintenance of assets created under NREP/RLEGP.

(v) A programme for construction of three lakh dugwells for SC/ST, small and marginal farmers is being taken up during 1988-89 under the NREP.

(c) For implementing the Frame-Work Action Plan for foodgrains production the State Governments have been asked to review the progress once a fortnight at the level of Chief Secretary/Agriculture Production Commissioner and once every season at the level of the Chief Minister. For better planning, implementation and monitoring of poverty alleviation programmes, as per the existing programme guidelines, the State Governments have constituted State Level Coordination Committees.

Freight equalisation scheme

*73. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the **Minister of PLANNING be pleased to** refer the reply to Unstarred Question 1377 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1987 and state :

(a) whether the freight equalisation scheme has since been phased out; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b) The Government have since reconsidered the matter and decided to refer the issue to the National Development Council for a decision.

श्रीलंका के नवयुवकों का पाकिस्तान में प्रशिक्षण

*74. **श्री रशीद मसूद :**
श्री सुब्रह्मण्यन स्वामी :

क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय शान्ति सेना ने हाल ही में श्रीलंका के पूर्वी प्रांतों से कुछ नवयुवकों को श्रीलंका में साम्प्रदायिक दंगे फैलाने तथा भड़काने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रकार कितने नवयुवकों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है और क्या उन नवयुवकों से इस बात की भी जानकारी मिली है कि उन्हें, विभिन्न प्रकार के हथियारों को चलाने और तोड़फोड़ करने का प्रशिक्षण पाकिस्तान में दिया गया था; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इन तथ्यों के आधार पर पाकिस्तानी अधिकारियों के साथ इस मामले में विचार-

विमर्श किया है और यदि हां, तो कब और ऐसे विचार-विमर्श के परिणामों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री के. सी. पंत) (क) और (ख) भारतीय शांति सेना ने श्रीलंका के पूर्वी प्रांत में साम्प्रदायिक हिंसा भड़काने के आरोप में एक युवक को पकड़ा है। पूछताछ के दौरान उसने बताया कि उसे तथा उसके कुछ अन्य साथियों को पाकिस्तान में प्रशिक्षित किया गया था।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

Attack on Indian tanker by Iranian gun boats

*75. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian tanker was hit by Iranian gun boats in the Southern gulf recently setting it ablaze;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Shipping Corporation of India tanker "Jairaroop Vyas" was attacked on **1115 hours on March 27, 1988 by two unidentified gunboats off the West Coast of Ras-Al-Khaimah in the UAE. The tanker sustained considerable external damage on starboard side from** large calibre shells fired from the deck-mounted guns. Internal damage to the tanker was limited on account of it being in ballast and the projectiles missing sensitive areas of the ship. All but one of its 59 member crew escaped unhurt. The injured sea-man who suffered serious burns and a fracture was evacuated off-shore for immediate medical attention. The estimated cost of repairs of the ship will be about Rs. 15.6 lakhs.

(c) Formal establishment of identity of the attackers has proved problematic and, therefore, no formal protest against these attacks has been lodged by the Government. However, Government have informally conveyed its concern over these attacks to the Iranian Government seeking their assurance for safe navigation of our cargo vessels|tankers in the Gulf.

Request of LTTE leaders to IPKF on Indo-Sri Lanka Accord

*76. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 13th April, 1988 to the effect that some LTTE leaders had approached the IPKF with the request that a meeting might be arranged so that surrender of arms by the LTTE could take place;

(b) if so, whether the request has since been considered; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to encourage the LTTE to accept the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement and to participate in the local administration contemplated in the agreement after the arms have been surrendered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have constantly maintained that if the LTTE hand over their arms and support the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, the door would be open to them to play a role in Tamil areas in Sri Lanka. If elected by the people, they could form the administration in these areas. Government have already addressed the concerns of militants laying down arms, through measures announced on the 26th November, 1987 which include provision for their security, upkeep and final rehabilitation.